(vii) Government of India loan, both under Plan and Non-Plan together with interest amounting to Rs.425.98 crore as on 31-3-2000 is to be written off.

(c) to (e) A commercial consultant namely M/s A.F. Ferguson & Co., was commissioned to formulate a turn-around strategy for CIWTC. Based on the report submitted by the Consultants and further recommendations made by Committee of Secretaries, the Government of India, keeping in view best Interest of Government and CIWTC, have accepted the following proposals:

(i) Continue with the present operations for river transportation operations;
(ii) Development of multimodal transport system;
(iii) Closure of Rajabagan Dockyard;
(iv) Provision of Rs.7.35 crore to be partially set off against realization from sale of vessels, amounting to Rs.2.85 crore (In the approved revival package this has now been revised to Rs.13.00 crore);
(v) Rationalisation of manpower requirement;
(vi) Disposal of the assets of Rajabagan Dockyard and surplus land of River Services Division;
(vii) Partial writing off of Government of India principal of Loan (Plan & Non-Plan) alongwith interest accrued (In the approved revival package it has now been revised to entire write-off of principal and interest thereon accumulated upto 31-3-2000);
(viii) Payment of Statutory liabilities of Rs. 13.00 crore (In the approved revival package, it has now been revised to Rs. 7.00 crore);

Privatisation of Ports

3753. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have been trying to overcome the problem of long turnaround times at ports by privatising them;

(b) whether it is a fact that Pipavav port was set up at a cost of over Rs. 400 crores but is still not capable of handling more than 3.5 MT of cargo due to lack of infrastructure; and

(c) if so, how do Government plan to resolve the problems of our ports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir. In order to improve efficiency,

productivity and quality of service as well as to bring in competitiveness in Port Services, the Port Sector has been thrown open to private sector participation.

(b) and (c) As per the provisions of Indian Ports Act, 1908, the responsibility for development/upgradation of minor ports lies entirely with the State Government concerned, which have administrative control on such ports.

Selling of Land for Creating a Pension Fund for CPT Employees

3754. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have asked the Calcutta Port Trust to formulate a scheme for selling some of its land to utilize the sale proceeds for creating a Pension Fund for its employees;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Calcutta Port Trust is unable to meet its annual liabilities of pensioners out of its own internal resources ;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to implement economy measures in Calcutta Port Trust and reduce its unnecessary expenditure ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Because of large number of pensioners in Calcutta Port Trust, the current income of the Port Trust is not adequate to meet the pension liabilities.

(e) Various economy measures aimed at reduction in expenditure, such as reducing overtime allowance, electricity charges, fringe benefits and voluntary retirement of the employees have been initiated by the Calcutta Port Trust.

Proposal to Link Ganga and Brahmaputra

3755. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI :

SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to link Ganga and the Brahmaputra rivers as national waterways to facilitate navigational links ;